



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Marc Elrich
County Executive

Adriana Hochberg
Acting Director

June 6, 2022

Ms. Mariam Halata
Clark Foundations Group
7500 Old Georgetown Rd.
Bethesda, MD 20814

Re: Noise Suppression Plan for Installation of Soldier Piles, Support Bracing and Reinforcing Tiebacks at 7316 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda

Dear Ms. Halata:

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of the Noise Suppression Plan (NSP) submitted to the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on May 16, 2022, for Support of Excavation (SOE) Systems that include installation of drilled soldier piles, support bracing and reinforcing tiebacks at the Hampden House/Metro Tower Project, located at 7316 Wisconsin Ave., Bethesda.

We have completed our review of the plan and found it to be sufficient and approve this plan with the following terms and conditions:

1. This approval is specific to only the noise created from drilling activities related to the installation of soldier piles, support bracing and tiebacks.
2. The 85 A-Weighted decibel (dBA) limit only applies from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday for the activities specified in item 1 above. At all other times, including weekday Federal holidays, the maximum noise levels must comply with the noise limits as specified in Section 31B-6 of the Montgomery County Code.
3. Where possible, schedule the more noise intensive activities for less intrusive times, such as mid-morning to mid-afternoon.
4. Noise mitigation barriers should be erected around loud pieces of stationary machinery (e.g., generators, concrete pumps, etc.).
5. Construction equipment shall be equipped with well-maintained and effective mufflers and moving parts shall be well lubricated to avoid unnecessary noise from squeaking parts. Equipment access doors and hatches should remain closed when the units are in operation and all equipment should be operated at the minimum level necessary to get the job done. Minimize banging, clattering, buzzing and other annoying types of noises.
6. Slamming of tailgates and dropping of materials into empty trucks are prohibited. Advise all onsite staff, including delivery and dump truck drivers of noise mitigation procedures prior to work.

7. Avoid unnecessary backing of equipment and trucks with tonal back-up alarms. Configure the site to maximize forward movement. Consider using lawful alternatives to factory pre-set backup alarms, such as flagpersons or white noise backup alarms.
8. Where possible, use the local power grid to reduce the use of generators and internal combustion powered tools.
9. Avoid prolonged idling of equipment. If equipment is not utilized for long periods, operator should shut off equipment to reduce idling noise.
10. Communicate frequently with nearby hotels, residential and commercial buildings so they are aware of the work schedule and expected construction activities.
11. Noise levels will be monitored on a regular basis with the decibel levels and locations of the monitoring sites kept in a log on site, which shall be available for inspection and review upon request.
12. You must maintain a log on site containing detailed information concerning any complaints received regarding noise from this project.
13. DEP may suspend, modify, or revoke this approval for any violation of the terms and conditions of the Noise Suppression Plan.
14. A copy of this approval and the Noise Suppression Plan must be available at the construction site.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Steve Martin at 240-777-7746 or by email at steve.martin@montgomerycountymd.gov.

Sincerely,



Stan Edwards, Chief
Energy, Climate and Compliance Division

cc: Peter Fosselman, BCC Regional Services Center
Capt. Sean Gagen, MC Police, 2nd District Station